



Physiatrists



The field of physical medicine and rehabilitation is also known as physiatry. This branch of medicine works to restore or optimize function to people living with disabilities. The discipline focuses on function, independence and quality of life.

Q: What is a physiatrist?

Physiatrists are physicians who specialize in physical medicine and rehabilitation. There are over 9,000 physiatrists per the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPMR).

Q: Are there subspecialties for physiatrists?

Yes, there are six subspecialties which are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The subspecialties are brain injury, pain medicine, spinal cord injury, sports medicine, pediatric rehabilitation medicine, and neuromuscular medicine.

Q: When is a physiatrist appropriate for you?

It is appropriate to see a physiatrist when you have chronic long-term issues that cover multiple specialties. Physiatrists often lead multidisciplinary teams of health care workers such as physical therapists, occupational therapists, nurses, etc. You may want to seek one when you are dealing with chronic pain or a condition that has left you with limited mobility such as a spinal cord injury.

Q: How can you find a physiatrist?

Please use the physician finder from the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in the resource list below.

Sources: ACGME, AAPMR, Association of Academic Physiatrists

Need to talk to someone?

Our Information Specialists are available to answer your questions.
Call toll-free 1-800-539-7309 Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm ET.
Or [schedule a call](#) or [ask a question online](#).

Resources about Physiatrists

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education: Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

<https://www.acgme.org/Specialties/Physical-Medicine-and-Rehabilitation/Overview>

ACGME covers the requirements for becoming a physiatrist and is the accrediting body for all graduate medical training programs for physicians in the United States.

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPMR)

<https://www.aapmr.org/>

9700 West Bryn Mawr Ave, Ste 200

Rosemont, IL 60018-5701

Phone: 847-737-6000

Email: info@aapmr.org

The patients & family section of AAPMR's website includes information on physiatrists and common disorders treated by physiatrists, as well as a searchable database of physiatrists.

AAPMR: Find a Physiatrist

https://members.aapmr.org/AAPMR/AAPMR_FINDER.aspx

Enter your zip code to find a physiatrist in your area or search by doctor name

AAPMR: What is a Physiatrist?

<https://www.aapmr.org/about-physiatry/about-physical-medicine-rehabilitation/what-is-physiatry>

Association of Academic Physiatrists (AAP)

<https://www.physiatry.org/default.aspx>

10461 Mill Run Circle, Suite 730

Owings Mills, MD 21117

Phone: 410-654-1000

AAP is a national organization of physiatrists who are affiliated with medical schools. The Association works to promote the advancement of teaching and research in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation within an academic environment.

[National Spinal Cord Injury Association’s Fact Sheet “What is a Physiatrist?”](#)

<http://www.makoa.org/nscia/fact11.html>

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